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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/622,696	11/01/2000	Stephan Bolz	051480-5016	8807

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EXAMINER
DOLINAR, ANDREW M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3747	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SD

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/622,696		BOLZ, STEPHAN	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
		Andrew M. Dolinar		3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. A sensor and interface arrangement as claimed is disclosed beginning at column 7, line 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al in view of Ohba et al. Suzuki et al discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for shielding of the interface circuit casing. Ohba et al teaches that it is known to provide a sensor interface circuit with a conductive casing for shielding. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sensor interface circuit of Suzuki et al with a conductive casing, as taught by Ohba et al, in order to protect the circuitry from electrical interference.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al in view of Frankeny et al. Suzuki et al discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for the cooling flange. Frankeny et al teaches that it is known to provide a circuit casing with a cooling flange. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sensor interface circuit of Suzuki et al with a cooling flange, as taught by Frankeny et al, in order to protect the circuitry from excessive heat.

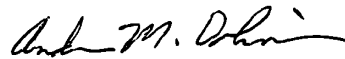
Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al in view of Maxwell et al. Suzuki et al discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for the waterproof connection. Maxwell et al teaches that it is known to provide a sensor assembly with waterproof connecting means. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sensor interface circuit of Suzuki et al with waterproof connecting means, as taught by Maxwell et al, in order to prevent moisture damage.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al in view of Matsubara et al. Suzuki et al discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for the shielded connecting line. Matsubara et al teaches that it is known to provide a sensor interface circuit with a shielded connecting line (column 2, lines 26-38). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sensor interface circuit of Suzuki et al with a shielded connecting line, as taught by Matsubara et al, in order to protect the circuitry from electrical interference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew M. Dolinar whose telephone number is (703) 308-1948. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thu. (7:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene can be reached on (703) 308-2696. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Andrew M. Dolinar
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747

AMD
December 14, 2001